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IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* An automatic accompaniment apparatus comprising:

a storage unit for storing accompaniment style data including basic accompaniment data for automatic accompaniment and replacement accompaniment data, which includes performance event data having time information, to be reproduced in place of the basic accompaniment data; and

a reproducing unit for reading the stored accompaniment style data and reproducing the read accompaniment style data, said reproducing unit reproducing the read accompaniment style data by replacing a portion of said basic accompaniment data with the replacement accompaniment data.

2. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said storage unit stores a plurality of accompaniment style data sets; and

the replacement accompaniment data for one set among the plurality of accompaniment style data sets is reference information data for referring to another accompaniment style data set other than the one set among the plurality of accompaniment style data sets in order to use the basic accompaniment data of said another accompaniment style data set.

3. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said storage unit stores a plurality of accompaniment style data sets; and

the basic accompaniment data for one set among the plurality of accompaniment style data sets is reference information data for referring to another accompaniment style data set other than the one set among the plurality of accompaniment style data sets in order to use the basic accompaniment data of said another accompaniment style data set.

4. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the basic accompaniment data includes a plurality of sections and is replaced with the replacement

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accompaniment data in a unit of section.

5. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the basic accompaniment data includes a plurality of tracks and is replaced with the replacement accompaniment data in a unit of track.

6. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

- the basic accompaniment data contains setting information for setting a reproduction state of an accompaniment tone for the basic accompaniment data;
- the accompaniment style data contains mixer information for altering the set reproduction state of the accompaniment tone; and
- said reproducing unit reproduces the accompaniment tone in a reproduction state set in accordance with the setting information changed by the mixer information.

7. *(Currently Amended)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

- an input unit for inputting performance information; and
- a musical tone generating unit for generating a musical tone in accordance with the performance information input from said input unit,

wherein the accompaniment style data further includes panel setting information for controlling a style of the generated musical tone.

8. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

- the basic accompaniment data of the accompaniment style data includes a plurality of sections and a plurality of panel setting information sets; and
- each of said panel setting information sets corresponds to one of the plurality of sections.

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9. (*Currently Amended*) An automatic accompaniment apparatus comprising:

a storage unit for storing accompaniment style data including accompaniment data for automatic accompaniment,

a basic chord conversion information for chord conversion of the accompaniment data, and replacement chord conversion information to be reproduced in place of the basic chord conversion information; and

a reproducing unit for replacing a portion of the basic chord conversion information with the replacement chord conversion information and reading and reproducing the stored accompaniment style data in accordance with the basic chord conversion information whose portion was replaced with the replacement chord conversion information.

10. (*Original*) The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said storage unit stores a plurality of accompaniment style data sets; and

the replacement chord conversion information for one set among a plurality of accompaniment style data sets is information data for referring to chord conversion information of another accompaniment style data set other than the one set among the plurality of accompaniment style data sets in order to use the basic chord conversion data of said another accompaniment style data set.

11. (*Original*) The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said storage unit stores a plurality of accompaniment style data sets; and

the basic chord conversion information for one set among a plurality of accompaniment style data sets is information data for referring to the chord conversion information of another accompaniment style data set other than the one set among the plurality of accompaniment style data sets in order to use the basic chord conversion information of said another accompaniment style data set.

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12. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the accompaniment data includes a plurality of sections;

the basic chord conversion information includes a plurality of sections corresponding to the plurality of sections of the accompaniment data; and

the basic chord conversion information is replaced with the replacement chord conversion information in a unit of section.

13. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the accompaniment data includes a plurality of tracks;

the basic chord conversion information includes a plurality of tracks corresponding to the plurality of tracks of the accompaniment data; and

the basic chord conversion information is replaced with the replacement chord conversion information in a unit of track.

14. *(Original)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the accompaniment data contains setting information for setting a reproduction state of an accompaniment tone for the accompaniment data;

the accompaniment style data contains mixer information for altering the set reproduction state of the accompaniment tone; and

said reproducing unit reproduces the accompaniment tone in a reproduction state set in accordance with the setting information changed by the mixer information.

15. *(Currently Amended)* The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a input unit for inputting performance information; and

a musical tone generating unit for generating a musical tone in accordance with the performance information input from said input unit,

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wherein the accompaniment style data further includes panel setting information for controlling the style of the generated musical tone.

16. (*Original*) The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:
the basic accompaniment data of the accompaniment style data includes a plurality of sections and a plurality of panel setting information sets; and
each of the panel setting information sets corresponds to one of the plurality of sections.

17. (*Currently Amended*) An automatic accompaniment apparatus comprising:
a input unit for inputting performance information;
a storage unit for storing accompaniment style data including accompaniment data for automatic accompaniment and panel setting information for controlling a style of a musical tone to be generated in accordance with the performance information, the panel setting information including musical tone type designating information for designating a musical tone type to be assigned to said input unit by using a bank number and a program number;
a reproducing unit for reading the stored accompaniment style data and reproducing the read accompaniment style data; and
a musical tone generating unit for generating a musical tone of a type designated by the musical tone type designating information contained in the accompaniment style data to be reproduced by said reproducing unit, in accordance with the performance information.

18. (*Currently Amended*) The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a substitute musical tone designating unit for designating a substitute musical tone if said musical tone generating unit cannot generate a music tone designated by the musical tone type designating information.

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19. (*Currently Amended*) An automatic accompaniment apparatus comprising:

an input unit for inputting performance information;

a storage unit for storing accompaniment style data including accompaniment data for automatic accompaniment and panel setting information for controlling a style of a musical tone to be generated in accordance with the performance information, the panel setting information including harmony tone type designating information for designating a harmony tone type to be added to the performance information by using a bank number and a program number;

a reproducing unit for reading the stored accompaniment style data and reproducing the read accompaniment style data; and

a musical tone generating unit for adding the performance information with a harmony tone signal of a type designated by the harmony tone type designating information contained in the accompaniment style data to be reproduced by said reproducing unit and generating a musical tone signal of the performance information and the harmony tone signal to be added.

20. (*Currently Amended*) The automatic accompaniment apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a substitute harmony tone designating unit for designating a substitute harmony tone if said musical tone generating unit cannot generate a harmony tone signal designated by the harmonic tone type information.

21. (*Currently Amended*) A storage device storing a program executable by for making a computer execute an for automatic accompaniment process, the process comprising program containing instructions for:

a step of reading an accompaniment style data from storage unit for storing the accompaniment style data, including basic accompaniment data for automatic accompaniment and replacement accompaniment data, which includes performance event data having time information, to be reproduced in place of the basic accompaniment data; and

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~~a step of reproducing the read accompaniment style data, said reproducing step and~~
reproducing the read accompaniment style data by replacing a portion of the basic
accompaniment data with the replacement accompaniment data.

22. (*Currently Amended*) A storage device storing a program executable by ~~for making a~~
computer ~~execute an~~ for automatic accompaniment ~~process~~, the ~~process comprising~~ program
containing instructions for:

~~a step of reading accompaniment style data from storage unit for storing the~~
accompaniment style data including accompaniment data for automatic accompaniment, basic
chord conversion information for chord conversion of the accompaniment data, and replacement
chord conversion information to be reproduced in place of the basic chord conversion
information; and

~~a step of replacing a portion of the basic chord conversion information with the~~
replacement chord conversion information and reproducing the stored accompaniment style data
in accordance with the basic chord conversion information whose portion was replaced with the
replacement chord conversion information.

23. (*Currently Amended*) A storage device storing a program executable by ~~for making a~~
computer ~~execute an~~ for automatic accompaniment ~~process~~, the ~~process comprising~~ program
containing instructions for:

~~a step of inputting performance information;~~

~~a step of reading accompaniment style data from storage unit for storing accompaniment~~
style data including accompaniment data for automatic accompaniment and panel setting
information for controlling a style of a musical tone to be generated in accordance with the
performance information, the panel setting information including musical tone type designating
information for designating a musical tone type of a musical tone to be generated in accordance
with the performance information, by using a bank number and a program number;

~~a step of reproducing the read accompaniment style data; and~~

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~~a step of~~ generating a musical tone signal of a type designated by the musical tone type designating information contained in the accompaniment style data to be reproduced by said reproducing step, in accordance with the performance information.

24. (*Currently Amended*) A storage device storing a program executable by ~~for making a computer execute an~~ for automatic accompaniment process, the process comprising program containing instructions for:

~~a step of~~ inputting performance information;

~~a step of~~ reading accompaniment style data from storage unit for storing accompaniment style data including accompaniment data for automatic accompaniment and panel setting information for controlling a style of a musical tone to be generated in accordance with the performance information, the panel setting information including harmony tone type designating information for designating a harmony tone type to be added to the performance information by using a bank number and a program number;

~~a step of~~ reproducing the read accompaniment style data; and

~~a step of~~ adding the performance information with a harmony tone signal of a type designated by the harmony tone type designating information contained in the accompaniment style data to be reproduced by said reproducing step and generating a musical tone signal of the performance information and the harmony tone signal to be added.